

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Frederick G. St. Goar et al. Art Unit : 3734
Serial No. : 10/635,776 Examiner : Lindsey Michele Bachman
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Title : METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR CARDIAC VALVE REPAIR

**FOR DISCUSSION ONLY -- NOT FOR ENTRY
INTO RECORD**

1.-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) A method of modifying a valve in a patient's heart to reduce regurgitation, the valve having an annulus, the method comprising:

advancing a catheter through the patient's vasculature into the heart from a femoral venous location, the catheter carrying a plurality of anchors;

placing the anchors directly on the annulus rather than on leaflets connected to the annulus;

coupling a single filament to all of the anchors such that the single filament connects the anchors to one another; and

tightening the filament to draw the anchors toward one another so as to modify the annulus to reduce regurgitation in the valve.

44. – 50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the anchors comprise sutures.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the anchors comprise staples.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein advancing the catheter comprises extending the catheter across an inter-atrial septum of the heart.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the valve is a mitral valve, and wherein tightening the filament modifies the annulus to reduce regurgitation in the mitral valve.

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43, further comprising positioning a guide catheter through the patient's vasculature into the heart from the femoral venous location, and wherein advancing the catheter comprises advancing the catheter through the guide catheter.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein tightening the filament comprises tightening the annulus.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein tightening the filament comprises shortening the annulus.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein tightening the filament comprises circumferentially shortening the annulus.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein tightening the filament comprises circumferentially tightening the filament by drawing at least some of the anchors together.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein tightening the filament comprises circumferentially tightening the filament by plicating portions of the annulus.

62.-66. (Cancelled)

Ex parte Pfeiffer is not applicable as the claim amendments of using the same catheter affect manipulatively affect the method. None of the cited prior art discloses or suggests such a feature